

Amendment to the Claims:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of providing continuing medical education credit to a first physician for a consultation between the first physician and a second physician, the first and second physicians being coupled to an intermediary via a telecommunications system, the method comprising the steps ~~performed in an intermediary which is coupled by a telecommunications system to both the first and second physicians~~ of:

receiving by the intermediary a request for a consultation from the first physician via the telecommunications system;

receiving a selection by a staff physician of the second physician, the second physician having an expertise in a specialty in which the consultation is requested by the first physician;

sending by the intermediary the request to the selected second physician via the telecommunications system;

~~arranging and conducting the consultation via the telecommunications system under supervision of a medical information specialist in the intermediary who is neither the first nor the second physician;~~

receiving by the intermediary a comment made with regard to the consultation via the telecommunications system from the selected second physician~~in the intermediary;~~
~~and~~

providing the comment from the selected second physician to the first physician via the telecommunications system;

notifying a continuing medical education accreditation module in the intermediary that the consultation has been successfully concluded;

recording information concerning the consultation in a continuing medical education database, the information being associated with the first physician; and

creating an accreditation report for the first physician from the information in the continuing medical education database, the accreditation report comprising a certification of the continuing medical education credit earned by the first physician from participation in the consultation.

~~to the medical information specialist, the intermediary being empowered to certify that the first physician is entitled to continuing medical education credit and the medical information specialist evaluating the consultation represented by the comment to determine whether the first physician is entitled to continuing medical education credit on the basis of the consultation represented by the comment and if the first physician is entitled, certifying that the first physician is entitled to the continuing medical education credit in a database accessible from the intermediary and otherwise not so certifying.~~

2. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps ~~performed in the intermediary under supervision of the medical information specialist~~ of:

retrieving by the intermediary instructional material relevant to the comment and the consultation selected by the staff physician from ~~the an information~~ data base; and

providing the instructional material to the first physician via the telecommunications system.

3. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth in claim 2 wherein the method further comprises the steps ~~performed in the intermediary under supervision of the medical information specialist~~ of:

providing by the intermediary an examination based on at least the instructional material via the telecommunications system;

receiving by the intermediary answers for the examination from the first physician via the telecommunications system; and

grading by the intermediary the received answers, the first physician being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician passes the examination.

4. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps ~~performed in the intermediary under supervision of the medical information specialist~~ of:

providing by the intermediary an examination based on at least the comment to the first physician via the telecommunications system;

receiving by the intermediary answers for the examination from the first physician via the telecommunications system; and

grading by the intermediary the received answers, the first physician being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician passes the examination.